



2022 United Nations Ocean Conference Side Event

Transforming Ocean Economies: Building Sustainable and Resilience Ocean Tourism and Coastal Cities

Friday, July 1, 2022, 10:00-11:15am, Side Event Room 1

Organized by: Government of Jamaica, World Resources Institute, and
The Stimson Center

TWO PAGE MAXIMUM

Background on the event (one paragraph)

The global pandemic revealed the fragility of the tourism industry and the need for resilient coastal communities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and coastal Least Developed Countries (LDCs). For SIDS, the economic value of tourism represents on average 30% of GDP, twice as high as the global average. The long-term resilience of destinations and the communities that rely on tourism revenue as a key aspect of their ocean economy will benefit greatly from the implementation of reimagined tourism models that are sustainable, regenerative, and capable of managing and adapting to imminent and future crises, such as climate change, disruptions to traditional travel patterns, and shifting population patterns. To implement a new resilient model of coastal and marine tourism, decision makers will require a comprehensive understanding of the economic, environmental, and social risks associated with climate change and other crises. CORVI, (the Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index), developed by the Stimson Center, organizes data and information across the land and seascape to provide that complete picture of the risks facing SIDS and coastal LDCs. The data-driven city-specific risk profile provided by CORVI helps stakeholders identify, prioritize, and advocate for the actions needed to strengthen coastal resilience. Currently operating in eleven cities around the world, CORVI has been used by city and national governments along with other stakeholders to inform their adaptation planning.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Interconnected risks facing SIDS and coastal cities
- Risks to coastal and marine tourism from climate change
- How coastal and marine tourism can move towards a more sustainable and resilient model
- The importance of a holistic approach to building resilience and sustainable blue economies
- How funders can support SIDS and LDCs to improve the resilience of their blue economies
- How the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic can help coastal communities and island states build back bluer

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Increase collaboration and learning between coastal cities and SIDS facing common climate risks
- Increase investment in nature-based solutions and other coastal resilience solutions to increase tourism
- Create new opportunities for coastal cities and SIDS to access data to unlock climate finance
- Increase climate adaptation financing, especially to SIDS and LDCs
- Assess climate and ocean vulnerabilities holistically, taking into account how risks are interconnected

Voluntary Commitments (one paragraph)